

# INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In April 1955, after the 1955 development tasks for the Wissenschaftlich-Technisches Bureau fuer Geraetebau (Scientific and Technical Office for Instrument Construction) (WTBG) had been definitely set, the organization of the office had to be entirely remodeled. The differences of opinion and struggle for power existing among the party functionaries was strongly felt on the occasion of the planning of the reorganization. These divergences started when former director Schlegel (fnu) was forced to resign a year ago. On 14 August 1955, Dr. Fritz Weller managing engineer of the WTBG and Ing. Alfred Bahrs, head of the laboratory, were given the legal 14-day notice. The two men had concluded an individual contract which had expired shortly before that date. The reasons given for the notices stated that the salaries of the two employees were considered too high and did not justify their employment from an economic viewpoint.
2. In early June 1955, an allegedly definite organization plan for the WTBG was drafted. It had been elaborated by the management of the office in cooperation with the labor section, which is under the direct orders of the Ministry of Labor and the Betriebsgewerkschaftsleitung (Office trade union committee) (BGL). The organization of the technical section was entirely remodeled. The construction section as a central department was dissolved. Constructional tasks assigned in the future would be dealt with directly by the respective individual laboratories. The managing staff of the office headed by Dr. Weller was dissolved. Measures of economy were the only reasons for this action. Elek. Ing. Karl Mahler, head of the technical organization, became party secretary. The personnel strength would be reduced to 386 persons. This reduction also included the bookkeeping section.
3. This reduction of the personnel strength was based mainly on political considerations. Although it would have been an easy thing to find and fire a sufficient number of incompetent specialists, not a single SED member was hit by these measures. On the other hand, development experts, who had proved to be excellent specialists under the SAG regime (Soviet Corporation) for many years, were fired. Such measures will reduce technical efficiency of the WTBG to an even lower standard than before. The section heads are rather angry at these measures, and differences with

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the management and the cadre section have already occurred. The heads of the laboratories, who are responsible for the development tasks, predict that as far as the standard of development is concerned, the requirements set can no longer be met. The differences just mentioned were expected to increase considerably in the months to come.

4. The laboratories, Nos. I through VII were set up according to the special field with which they dealt. The developing specialists were placed under the orders of the head of the respective laboratory both in the personal and technical fields. Any excess of drafting work occurring would be carried out by a drafting group under the supervision of the drafting control section. The non-existence of a centrally controlled design or construction department probably will have a bad effect on the quality of the designs and on the punctual meeting of the targets.

Comment. For the organization and assignments as of early June 1955, see Annex.

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1. Comment: Not further identified.

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\* Annex

Organization Plan and Assignments of the Technical Section of WTBC

as of early June 1955

Following is a list of the present members of the technical section:

Plant manager: Dr. Joachim Zapf

Planning: Konirsch

Manager of development: Zeumer, Kurt

Deputy: Wolter

Checking of drawings and standardization: Zinke

Groups of draftsmen

Records and heliographic office: Schlitt-Dittrich

Laboratories 1 through 5, head: Wolter

Zerbe

Fritsch

Boecking, Gerhard

Bielicke

Thielicke, Hans

Wendt

Manufacturing manager: Kaerger

Metallurgy

Workshops

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